

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORTTY

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BR, CPRS (MORRIS, FREDERICK)

SUBJECT: MORRIS TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS

REF: A. STATE 270227 B. BRASILIA 9270

1. FREDERICK MORRIS' TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WAS POSTPONED FROM DECEMBER 10 TO 11.

2. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ADVANCE COPY OF HIS WRITTEN STATEMENT. AFTER A LONG DESCRIPTION (MORE DETAILED THAN TIME ARTICLE OR PRESENTATIONS ON TELEVISION) OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM FROM DETENTION TO RELEASE, MORRIS ENDS HIS PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SOME CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS, THE TEXT OF WHICH ARE QUOTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

3. BEGIN TEXT CONCLUSIONS: REFLECTING ON MY EXPERIENCE

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HAS LED TO SOME PERSONAL CONCLUSIONS, AND TO SOME

QUESTIONS--QUESTIONS THAT THIS COMMITTEE HAS TO DEAL WITH
CONSTANTLY. FIRST, MY CONCLUSIONS:

4. TORTURE BRUTALIZES AND DE-HUMANIZES NOT ONLY THOSE WHO
ARE TORTURED, BUT THOSE WHO TORTURE, THOSE WHO ARE
INTIMIDATED BY THE TORTURE OF OTHERS, AND THOSE WHO TRY
TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT TORTURE EXISTS.

5. IT DEHUMANIZES THOSE WHO ARE TORTURED BY TREATING
THEM AS LESS THAN HUMAN, AND, IN MANY CASES, BY FORCING
THEM INTO LESS-THAN-HUMAN FEELINGS AND, OFTEN, INTO LESS-
THAN-HUMAN ACTS. IF ONE IS FORCED TO BETRAY FRIENDS,
COMPANIONS AND FAMILY THROUGH TORTURE, AS MANY ARE, THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL DAMAGE MAY BE IRREPARABLE,
QUITE APART FROM PERMANENT PHYSICAL DAMAGE THAT OFTEN
RESULTS.

6. IT DEHUMANIZES THOSE WHO TORTURE. IN ADDITION TO THE
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY INDUCED AND ENCOURAGED IN THOSE WHO
PRACTICE TORTURE, PERSONS AND GOVERNMENTS WHO RESORT TO
TORTURE FOR WHATEVER MOTIVES BETRAY THEIR SOCIAL CON-
TRACT WITH THEIR FELLOW MEN, AND EFFECTIVELY SECEDE FROM THE
HUMAN COMMUNITY.

7. IT DEHUMANIZES THOSE WHO ARE INTIMIDATED. CHURCHMEN
WHO CEASE TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN ITS FULLNESS OUT OF
FEAR; STUDENTS WHO CEASE TO MAKE THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH
THEIR VOCATION OUT OF FEAR; JOURNALISTS WHO GIVE THE
PUBLIC LESS THAN THE TRUTH FOR FEAR OF REPRISAL; WORKERS
WHO, THROUGH FEAR OF REPRESSION, ARE NOT ALLOWED TO
ORGANIZE TO DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS; POLITICIANS WHO CAN
ONLY RUBBER-STAMP AUTHORITARIAN PROPOSALS FROM
DICTATORIAL REGIMES, FOR FEAR OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF
MORE INDEPENDENT, CONSCIENCE-LED ACTIONS; ALL THESE, AND,
IN FACT, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF MAN SHARE IN THE DE-
HUMANIZATION CAUSED BY TORTURE.

8. TORTURE DEHUMANIZES THOSE WHO TRY TO IGNORE IT,
SAYING IT IS AN "INTERNAL AFFAIR," OR A PASSING
PHASE. SUCH INDIFFERENCE DRIES UP THE WELL-SPRINGS OF
HUMAN SYMPATHY AND COMPASSION, AND ALSO BREAKS THE
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SOCIAL CONTRACT OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO BE CONCERNED
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF MAN. CIVILIZATION AND FREEDOM
ARE NOT BUILT AND CANNOT BE MAINTAINED BY THOSE WHO
ASSUME THE POSTURE OF INDIFFERENCE.

9. MY QUESTIONS:

1. SHOULD NOT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASK FOR SOME SORT
OF ASSURANCE THAT THIS SORT OF THING WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN

TO A U.S. CITIZEN? SHOULD NOT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INSIST THAT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT, AND THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY BE PUNISHED? AM I NOT DUE AN APOLOGY --NOT FOR THE SAKE OF MY FEELINGS--BUT TO REESTABLISH SOME LEVEL OF RESPECT AND DECENCY IN THE RELATIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF BOTH NATIONS?

10. 2. SHOULD NOT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TAKE A MORE ACTIVE STAND IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, NOT ONLY

TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ITS OWN CITIZENS, BUT TO PROTEST THE CREEPING TIDE OF NEO-BARBARISM THAT WE HAVE SEEN MANIFESTED IN RECENT MONTHS IN GREECE, ETHIOPIA, CHILE, URUGUAY, BRAZIL, BOLIVIA, ARGENTINA, SOUTH KOREA, SOUTH VIET NAM, AND THE PHILIPPINES, AND IN RECENT DECADES IN CUBA, CHINA, NORTH VIET NAM, SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, NORTH KOREA, AND THE SOVIET UNION? MUST WE CONTINUE TO STILL OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN DIGNITY OUT OF CONCERN FOR WHAT IS REGARDED AS POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY? IF WE FOLLOW ONLY A POLICY OF EXPEDIENCY, HOW CAN WE PERCEIVE THE DIVIDING-LINE OR THE BOUNDARY OVER WHICH WE CANNOT STEP WITHOUT BECOMING LIKE THOSE WHOM WE RIGHTLY ABHOR AND CONDEMN?

11. 3. CAN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO GIVE MASSIVE FINANCIAL AID TO, GUARANTEE PRIVATE U.S. INVESTMENT IN, AND ENCOURAGE LOANS FOR (ON THE BASIS OF WHAT IS REGARDED, SOMETIMES QUESTIONABLY, AS OUR ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST) A GOVERNMENT THAT ABUSES ITS OWN CITIZENS, AS THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT DOES, AND THAT HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF ITS OWN LEGAL SYSTEM? IS IT NOT A LEGITIMATE AND INDEED OVERWHELMING DUTY OF THE CONGRESS TO CUT OFF ALL AID FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH GOVERNMENTS, PROHIBIT GUARANTEED INVESTMENTS, AND CUT OFF LOANS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND URGE THE CUTTING OFF OF SUCH LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LENDING AGENCIES?

12. 4. CAN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY BE DETERMINED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, WITHOUT LOSING SIGHT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, WHICH IS TO PROMOTE HUMAN VALUES AND WELFARE?

13. MR. CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: I AM NOT PERSONALLY BITTER ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE AT THE HANDS OF THE TORTURERS OF THE BRAZILIAN ARMY, IN PART, AT LEAST, BECAUSE IN A REAL SENSE I WON THE BATTLE.

DUE TO A COMBINATION OF MY FAITH AND MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY I WAS CAUGHT UP IN, MY DIGNITY REMAINED INTACT. ALTHOUGH THEY WORKED THEIR WILL ON MY BODY, THEY DID NOT TOUCH MY REAL HUMANITY.

14. I WAS FORCED, IN THIS EXPERIENCE, TO SHARE IN THE SUFFERINGS OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE WHOM I HAVE COME TO LOVE AND RESPECT DURING THE NEARLY ELEVEN YEARS I WAS PERMITTED TO WORK WITH THEM. MY HOPE AND MY PRAYER IS THAT THESE BRAVE AND HEROIC PEOPLE CAN BE HELPED IN THEIR SEARCH FOR DIGNITY AND JUSTICE BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOUNDED THEIR NATION ON SUCH PRINCIPLES. MY HOPE

AND MY PRAYER IS THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES CAN DETERMINE TO END ALL KINDS OF SUPPORT FOR REPRESSIVE REGIMES EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, THUS BEING TRUE TO OUR OWN REVOLUTION WHOSE 200TH ANNIVERSARY WE SHALL SOON CELEBRATE. END TEXT

15. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

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